

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 SS-15 EUR-12 SCA-01

NSC-05 JUSE-00 SEC-01 /063 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - VESCO

THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFINGS
OF DECEMBER 5 AND DECEMBER 6. NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED.

Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT EXPECT THE PETITION OF 200 PROMINENT
COSTA RICANS FOR PRESIDENT ODUBER TO EXPEL VESCO FROM COSTA
RICA TO SUCCEED?

ANSWER: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS AWARE OF THE PETITION,
BUT HAS NO COMMENT ON THIS INTERNAL COSTA RICAN MATTER.

Q: HOW IS THIS LIKELY TO AFFECT U.S. EFFORTS TO RETURN
VESCO TO JUSTICE IN THE U.S.?

ANSWER: THE PETITION IS AN INTERNAL COSTA RICAN MATTER.
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THE U.S. EFFORT TO RETURN VESCO WAS THROUGH THE LEGAL PRO-

CESS OF EXTRADITION PURSUANT TO TREATY. AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT VESCO'S EXTRADITION FROM COSTA RICA IN JUNE 1973. ANY FUTURE EXTRADITION REQUEST WOULD BE INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND REVIEWED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Q: WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO CHARGES IN THE COSTA RICAN PRESS THAT 75 U.S. CIA AGENTS ARE ENGAGED IN COSTA RICA "TO CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO THE GOVERNMENT" AND TO PURSUE ROBERT VESCO?

ANSWER: OUR EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA HAS ALREADY ISSUED A STATEMENT DISMISSING THE PRESS REPORT AS UNFOUNDED AND RIDICULOUS.

I SHOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA ARE EXCELLENT, AND THE USG HAS THE HIGHEST RESPECT FOR COSTA RICA'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

Q: IF THE MOVEMENT IN COSTA RICA TO EXPEL VESCO SUCCEEDS, WHERE CAN HE GO?

ANSWER: I HAVE NO COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO THAT HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION.

Q: WHAT COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES WOULD BE LIKELY TO ACCEPT VESCO? CAN HE RETURN TO THE BAHAMAS OR GO TO PANAMA, FOR EXAMPLE?

ANSWER: I WOULD RATHER NOT SPECULATE ABOUT THAT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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